

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **26 August 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, and 23-48. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, and 23-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (USPN 6,275,824, hereinafter "O'Flaherty") in view of Sweet et al (USPub 2002/0031230, hereinafter "Sweet").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, and 41 were rejected as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty in view of Sweet.

Applicant respectfully points out that although Sweet teaches different levels of system administrators who have different powers, and that different users can access different secured portions of the system (see Sweet [0090] to [0110]), Sweet does not suggest that a group of sensitive users who have access to sensitive data can **only** be administered by a **special administrator** (i.e. a security officer). Since Sweet does not restrict normal system administrators from administering sensitive users, it is possible in Sweet for a normal administrator to gain access to sensitive data by converting a normal user into a sensitive user who can access the sensitive data.

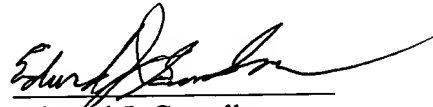
In contrast, the present invention prevents normal administrators from administering sensitive users (see page 9, line 24 to page 10, line 3 of the instant application). Moreover, **only security officers** can perform administrative function on sensitive users (see page 7, lines 7-11; and page 10, lines 4-6 of the instant application). Hence, in the present invention, it is not possible for normal system administrators to gain access to sensitive data.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-48 without prejudice. Applicant has added new claims 49-69 and respectfully submits that new claims 49-69 as presented are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 25 January 2006

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